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CENTRAL FAX CENTERAppl. No. 10/824,720  
Reply to Office Action of 02/22/2007

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Page 7

## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

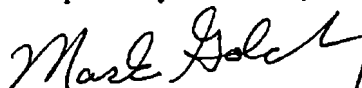
Applicants have amended claims 1, 9 and 15 to specify that at least a portion of the bottom stream is recycled to the reactor instead of to the reactor or the regenerator.

Claims 1-10 and 12-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Beech Jr. et al. (US 7,119,241). Applicants have amended the claims to specify that instead of sending the bottom stream containing catalyst fines to the regenerator, such catalyst fines are sent to the reactor. Beech teaches away from sending the catalyst fines to the reactor in col. 16, lines 1-7. Contrary to the teachings of Beech, applicants have found that an efficient process can be carried out with the recycle to the reactor. An advantage of this recycle is that the water content of this bottom stream adds a negligible volume of water to the reactor, instead of flowing to the regenerator which needs to be a dryer environment where the carbon is burned from the catalyst. Therefore, the claims as amended are now different from the teachings of Beech Jr. et al.

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as unpatentable over Beech Jr. et al. in view of Ding et al. (US 7,135,604 B1). Claim 11 adds an alkaline reagent to neutralize any acidic byproduct. Ding is cited for teaching a process for removing carbon dioxide by contacting the quench stream with an alkaline stream. Applicants believe that the amendment of claims 1, 9 and 15 to send the bottom stream to the reactor also distinguishes the present invention from the teachings of the combination of Beech Jr. et al. and Ding et al.

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-22. It is believed that the amendments to the claims place the application in condition for allowance. The Examiner may contact the undersigned representative to resolve any remaining issues regarding this patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Goldberg  
Attorney for Applicants  
Reg. No. 29,921  
(847) 391-2672 (phone)  
(847) 391-2387 (fax)

MG/gm